

Notes on the Flora of Louisiana

CLAIR A. BROWN

Louisiana is one of the states in which relatively little systematic botanical work has been done. Some of the more noteworthy articles on the flora of the state have been obscurely published. The citations of some of these publications have often been incorrect.

R. S. Cocks (6) presented a paper before the Louisiana Society of Naturalists on "A Historical sketch of the Louisiana Botanists," and gave a bibliography of fourteen references. In a later publication Cocks (8) stated that Featherman had prepared a manuscript on the "Flora of Louisiana" which was sent to the Smithsonian Institution but was never published, and that Featherman's collections were totally destroyed. Between one and two thousand specimens of Featherman's collection form the nucleus of the present herbarium of the Louisiana State University.

E. A. Featherman (2, 3, 4) published a series of three articles which are often cited as in the "Geological Survey of Louisiana." They appeared as a part of the "Report of the Board of Supervisors of the Louisiana State Seminary of Learning" 1870, and of the Louisiana State University for the years 1871 and 1872, which are contained in the "Legislative Documents of Louisiana," along with the reports of the geological survey. A more detailed account of these articles will appear at a later date.

6. Cocks, C. S. "Proceedings of the Louisiana Society of Naturalists." 1900.
8. Cocks, C. S. "Flora of the Gulf Biological Station." Bull. 7 of the Gulf Biological Station.
2. Featherman, E. A. "Report on the Botany of Louisiana" Legislative Documents of Louisiana pp. 11-122, 1870.
3. Featherman, E. A. "Report of the Botanical Survey of South and Central Louisiana." Legislative Documents of Louisiana pp. 1-132, 1871.
4. Featherman, E. A. "Third Annual report of the Botanical Survey of Southwest and Northwest Louisiana." Legislative Documents of Louisiana pp. 101-161, 1872.

The following list of plants can be considered as extending the published distribution of the species. They are recorded from Louisiana for the first time unless otherwise noted, or they have been included because of some feature that makes their occurrence noteworthy. All specimens mentioned are in the Louisiana State University Herbarium.

Soliva sessilis R. & P.

This species is reported in the North American Flora for Mississippi and California (?) as an adventive from South America. Its abundance is such that it can be classed as a plant that is thoroughly naturalized. In many places it forms a mat of such an extent that it gives the impression of a closely clipped lawn. Represented by the following collections: Baton Rouge, *Brown 932*; East Baton Rouge Parish, Stewart's Swamp, *Brown 1872*.

In Small's flora (9) the genus *Soliva* is represented by only one species, *S. nasturtiifolia* (Juss.) DC. which has been transferred to the genus *Gymnostyles* (12). The genus *Gymnostyles* is represented in Louisiana by *G. anthemifolia* A. Juss. and *G. nasturtiifolia* A. Juss., both of which have been reported from Louisiana and which I find very abundant as weeds particularly in the streets of New Orleans and Baton Rouge as well as other parts of the state.

Verbena rigida Spreng. Syst. Veg. 4, pt. 2, 230, 1827.

V. venosa Gills & Hook. Bot. Misc. 1, 167, 1830.

Small (9) reports this species as *V. venosa* from around Houston, Texas, as naturalized from South America, and describes the plant as an annual. Our plant fits the description in Small's flora very well with the exception that the plant is perennial, and has a long branching rhizome from which many plants arise.

9. Small, J. K. "Flora of Southeastern United States." 1913.

12. "North American Flora."

Mohr (7) whose synonymy I have followed states that the plant is an escape from cultivation and is naturalized in the Gulf coast states and south Texas. Mohr also states the plant is a perennial. This plant is common in many places and forms dense patches which are conspicuous along roadsides due to the brilliant color of the blossoms. It is represented by the following collections: Baton Rouge, *Peterson*, 1909; Covington, *Peterson*, 1909; Baton Rouge, *E. A. Bessey*, 1909; Kleinpeter, *Brown 1054*.

Bowlesia septentrionalis C. & R.

Coulter and Rose (5) give the range of this species from Texas to Southern California and north to the Sacramento Valley. Their description calls for white petals. Our plant has purple petals in the fresh state. De Candolle (1) lists seven species but makes no mention of the color of the petals. In view of the fact that purple and blue often fade in herbarium specimens, and that the description was based upon herbarium specimens, I venture to amend the description as to the color of the flowers. The petals are purplish, less than one millimeter in length, ovate-oval in shape and usually dry whitish.

One of the collections which Coulter and Rose cite as being typical of this species was collected by J. F. Joor near Galveston, Texas, April 21, 1877. There are two sheets of this collection in the Louisiana State University Herbarium, also one from the Banks of the Brazos near Calvert, Texas, April 22, 1880, by Joor, which are identical with our plants with the exception that the petals show no color. The collection on which the purple petals were noticed was from lawns and waste places in New Orleans, *Penfound* and *Brown 2063*.

Calyptrocarpus Tampicana (DC.) Small

Small records this species from Southern Texas and also tropical America. This species is a common weed in waste places in New Orleans. It blooms nearly the year round. New Orleans, *Penfound & Brown 2065*.

Stachys agraria Cham. & Schl.

The range as given by Small is Texas and Mexico. Mohr reports this species from Mobile Co., Alabama, as "a fugitive on ballast but observed subsequently." It is abundant in several places in Louisiana but it is more abundant in the open fallow fields than in the shady woods, although it has been found in both habitats. West Baton Rouge Parish, *Brown 1756*; Baton Rouge, *Peterson 1909*; *Brown 1911*.

7. Mohr, C. "Plant Life of Alabama." 1901.

5. Coulter and Rose. "North American Umbelliferae." 1900.

1. De Candolle. "Prodromus." pt. 4, 75.

Triadenum longifolium Small

This species is recorded from Alabama and Florida. East Baton Rouge Parish, *Brown 1512*.

Chamaesyce humistrata (Engelm.) Small

Small gives the range of this species as from Quebec to New York, Kansas and Mississippi. This plant was found in sandy soil that had been flooded by the Mississippi River. Baton Rouge, *Brown 1229*; near Port Allen, *Brown 1524*.

Osmunda regalis L.

This species is recorded from New Brunswick to Nebraska, Florida and Mississippi. It is not rare in Louisiana as can be seen by the following records: Old Seminary, (Alexandria La. *Featherman*, 1869?; Covington, *Peterson*, 1910; Baton Rouge, *Peterson*, 1910; De Quincey, *Peterson*, 1912; near Baton Rouge. *Brown 1865, 1897*.

Botrychium obliquum Muhl.

Small quotes the range of this species from New Brunswick to Minnesota and south to Florida. The North American Flora limits its southern range to Georgia and Arkansas. It has been found several times in Louisiana as the following records show: Baton Rouge Comite swamp, *Joor*, 1885; East Baton Rouge Parish, *Joor*, no date (apparently var. *dissectum* (Spreng.) Clute); near Harelson, *Brown 1181*. W. R. Maxon, to whom this specimen was sent for identification, writes that it is apparently a depauperate form of var. *tenuifolium* (Underw.) Gilbert.

Duchesnea indica (Andr.) Focke.

In waste places New York to Florida and Alabama. This plant is very common around Baton Rouge, not only on the edges of cultivated fields and waste places but in rather dense wood lots that have not been cut or pastured recently. Baton Rouge, *Peterson*, 1909; Harrisonburg, *G. Meeker*, 1913; Baton Rouge, *Brown 879*.

Myosurus minimus L.

This species is recorded from southern Ontario to Illinois, Kentucky, and Florida. It is not very abundant in Louisiana, where it occurs in cultivated fields: New Roads, *Peterson*, 1909; Baton Rouge, *Joor*, 1874: *Peterson*, 1910,: *Brown 1906*.

Andropogon Tracyi Nash

Reported from Alabama and Mississippi. This species was collected in pine woods near Kleinpeter, *Brown 1499*, Det. A. S. Hitchcock.

Conobea multifida (Michx.) Benth.

Small quotes the range of this species from Pennsylvania to Iowa, Tennessee, and Texas. Pennell (11) does not include it for Louisiana. New Orleans, *Featherman* at "Stock landing Ferry," 1870; Baton Rouge, *Joor* (?) 1885: *Brown 1159*.

Viorna viorna (L.) Small

The range as given by Small is from southern Pennsylvania to Ohio, West Virginia to Georgia and Alabama. This species was reported by Featherman (3) in 1871, and is represented in the herbarium by the following collections: Baton Rouge, *Brown 1001*; Franklin, *Brown 1845*.

Clematis virginiana L.

Reported by Small from Nova Scotia to Manitoba, Georgia and Kansas. This species was reported by Featherman in 1871. Baton Rouge, *Brown 1133*.

Trillium sessile L.

Small gives the range as Pennsylvania to Minnesota, Florida and Mississippi. Featherman reported it from Louisiana in 1871. The following specimens are in the herbarium: East Baton Rouge Parish, near Amite River, *Featherman*, no date; Baton Rouge, *Joor*, 1868: *Peterson*. 1909: Stevensdale, *Bell*, 1913; *Brown 880*; Catahoula Parish, Harrisonburg, *G. Meeker*, 1913; West Feliciana Parish, St. Francisville, *Brown 1891*; Livingston Parish, *Brown 1660*.

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY,
BATON ROUGE, LA.

11. Pennell, F. W. "Scrophulariaceae of the West Gulf States." Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci., Phila. pt. 3, 1921.